

CHAPTER 319

(House Bill 86)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities

FOR the purpose of requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to include certain recommendations in a certain plan; establishing the Maryland Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the Executive Department; establishing the Director of Minority Affairs as head of the Office Department; requiring the Director of the Office to report to the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; establishing the duties and responsibilities of the Office; establishing a Minority Health Advisory Commission; providing for the membership, chairperson, expenses, and staff of the Commission; establishing the duties of the Commission; requiring the Director to promote health and prevention of disease among members of certain groups; authorizing the Director to distribute certain grants for the improvement of minority health and health disparities under certain circumstances; authorizing the Director to fund certain projects; requiring that the Office Department provide a certain report; declaring the intent of the General Assembly; defining certain terms; and generally relating to the establishment of the Maryland Office of Minority Health and the Minority Health Advisory Commission and Health Disparities.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article - Health - General

Section 20-904(d)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2000 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article - State Government Health - General

Section ~~9-3A-01~~ 20-1001 through ~~9-3A-08~~ 20-1007, inclusive, to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle ~~3A~~ 10. Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities"

Annotated Code of Maryland

(1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The cost of racial and ethnic disparities in health care has a substantial negative economic impact on the State; and

WHEREAS, There is a social and economic benefit to ensuring that minorities have access to preventive health care; now, therefore,